

ALEXIS HERMAN—EXCELLENT CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY OF LABOR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida [Mrs. BROWN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Alexis Herman, who is the most appropriate person to head this country's Department of Labor. As many of my colleagues know, Mrs. Herman has spent much of her life preparing for this job. Almost 20 years ago, Mrs. Herman headed the women's division of the Department of Labor under President Carter and she has been building on that success ever since. Mrs. Herman has spent most of her working life as an advocate for minorities in businesses, including the corporate sector.

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She has been an effective leader, and she has looked out for the interests of the working people of this country. Because of her efforts, this country is now a better place for business and for the workers. Mrs. Herman has done a great job heading the President's liaison office for the last 4 years, and she will do even a better job as heading the Department of Labor.

As an African-American and a woman, Mrs. Herman has overcome many obstacles in her rise to become one of the leading advocates for business and economic development in our country. I implore my colleagues in the Senate to confirm the nomination of Alexis Herman without delay.

Ms. Herman has earned our support and our confidence.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama [Mr. HILLIARD] for a colloquy.

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I understand the gentlewoman from Florida has a fantastic story she would like to tell us about Ms. Alexis Herman.

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Recently in Eatonville, a little town in my district, a young lady came up to me and asked me did I know Mrs. Alexis Herman because she was from Mobile, AL. And speaking of family values, she told me about her mother who was the librarian in the little school there and taught them the importance of taking care of what they had since they did not have much. Her father was a community leader and sent best wishes to Ms. Alexis Herman. So when we talk about family values, it is important to understand that Alexis Herman comes from the kind of roots that has made this country great.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida [Mrs. MEEK].

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me. Once in a while good people come into government, good people who base their decisionmaking on experience, good people who base their decisionmaking on the love of God and faith in

the people. Alexis Herman is that kind of person.

I stand to ask support of the Senate to confirm Ms. Alexis Herman. They could not find a better person, both from an educational point of view, from a professional point of view and from a personal point of view. They will find someone who is a team player, who will look through both parties, not one, who will look to the education of our children to be sure that they learn to work. She understands the work ethic. She understands labor. She is fair.

Mr. Speaker, to my dear colleagues, I think today this country and our wonderful Nation did itself proud in the U.S. Senate, because there was a very, very good and positive hearing about Alexis Herman's qualifications. I am very pleased that we are here today to say that. We have a person who understands. She is no ordinary person. She is no ordinary government worker. She is an extraordinary person who understands how to do ordinary things.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. EWING]. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds all Members that they should refrain from referring to the confirmation proceedings in the Senate by advocating that it take certain action with respect to a Presidential nominee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GEKAS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to switch times with the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS].

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. McINNIS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, this evening my comments are going to be about a procedure that I did not even know existed as of 2 years ago, and that is called partial birth abortion. What is partial birth abortion? I think it is incumbent upon every citizen of this country, every American in this country to understand what that procedure is.

Now, let me explain it to my colleagues without trying to get too graphic. What it is, it is the abortion in the late term of a pregnancy. What do I mean by that and how does this procedure carry it out? What I mean is that in this country it is legal for a pregnant individual to go into the delivery room on delivery date, 9 months, upon delivery date and have that fetus aborted.

How is the procedure carried out? The baby is actually delivered feet first all the way out of the woman's body except for about 1 inch of the baby's head. At that point in time, a procedure is instituted which pierces the skull and, frankly, sucks the brains out of this individual. This is at 9 months or 8 months or 7 months. This is not the usual term of abortion as we think about it or hear about it. This procedure is actually performed not rarely, by the way. Even an advocate of this procedure admitted that he lied last year when he said that it was a rare procedure. It is a procedure that is performed on a fairly common basis.

Think of it in our country. We have some of the most advanced hospitals in the world. On one end of the hospital we will use whatever technology is available, whatever cash resources are necessary to save the life of a premature baby that on a lot of occasions may be no larger than your hand. On the other end of the hospital, a 9-month delivery, a regular delivery, no prematurity, a regular delivery, we allow under our laws in this country for any reason whatsoever for that child's life to be terminated, terminated through this procedure.

Some will tell us that this is a rare procedure, that it is a procedure performed for medical necessity.

Let me quote from C. Everett Koop: "I believe Mr. Clinton was misled by his medical advisors on what is fact and what is fiction on the matter," he said.

Such a procedure, he added, cannot truthfully be called medically necessary for either the mother or, he scarcely need point out, for the baby.

Dr. Romer, Dr. Smith, Dr. Cook and Dr. DeCook:

None of this risk is ever necessary for any reason. We and many other doctors across the United States regularly treat women whose unborn children suffer the same conditions as those cited by the women who appeared in the veto ceremony held a year ago by the President. Never is the partial birth procedure necessary.

Let me quote from the Wall Street Journal, Thursday April 25:

With capital punishment back in vogue, we ought to devise a modern method of execution for particularly fiendish criminals, the